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Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CA - Mr. McConaughy
THRU : CA - D. L. Osborn

DATE: May 5, 1955

FROM : CA - Stephen A. Comiskey

SUBJECT: Military Developments Affecting the GRC (5/5/55)

Bureau of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Department of State

Air.

The following are airfields along the coast now being constructed or improved:

Chenghai (Swatow) -- surfacing of runway begun.
Lungchi (near Amoy) -- runway outline taking shape.
Shati (near Amoy) -- MND estimates completion 9/55.
Lungtien (40 miles S of Foochow) -- runway outlined.
Nantai (Foochow) -- estimated completion 5/55 -- 6/55.

All of these airfields will be jet size; construction materials are being moved to them by water and we surmise other supplies, including POL, could be moved in the same way.

Admiral Pride has strongly advised against bombing these fields now as useless, since they are not completed and there are no aircraft or supplies as targets.

Taipei reports the CCAF is perfecting its interception capabilities against GRCAF reconnaissance planes and believes that when the fields listed above are completed, the GRCAF will no longer be able to observe and photograph mainland fields, such as Shanghai, Canton and interior bases, except at high cost.

Matsu.

There have been a number of sightings of torpedo boats near Matsu. We accept the presence of at least two of these PT boats and the possible presence of a CC unit flagship, the gunboat "Nan Chang". Shipping in the Matsu area has increased considerably, the sound of artillery fire on the mainland has intensified, and there is some reason to believe additional troops may have been moved to the area by ship. There has been no further shelling of the Matsu islands.

The GRCAF has asked for permission to conduct bombing and napalm raids against CC positions opposite Matsu. We are studying the request but fear such bombings would provoke retaliation against Matsu.

Quemoy

FE:CA:SAComiskey/eh

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